

Michigan Women's Commission

Improving the quality of life for Michigan women

2006 Annual Report



Jennifer M. Granholm, *Governor*

Linda V. Parker, *Director, Department of Civil Rights*

Emma Bell, *Chair*

Gloria Woods, *Vice Chair*

Judy Karandjeff, *Executive Director*

We Honor Feminists Who We Lost in 2006

Patty Berg (88) co-founder of the LPGA who won 60 professional tournaments during her career.

Our key theme was to get women's golf off the ground.

Octavia Butler (59) African-American writer who made an impact in a field dominated by white males, winner of a MacArthur genius grant.

I think people really need to think what it's like to have all of society arrayed against you.

Bebe Moore Campbell (56) author, her novels explored race and the complicated relationships between men and women.

You've got to begin to tell your children about race and not to pretend it doesn't exist, but to have some honest conversation with them. And along with that comes definitions of racism.

Evelyn Dubrow (95) first female lobbyist on Capitol Hill, representing the International Ladies Garment Workers Union from 1956 to 2004.

Work both sides of the aisle. Never threaten and never beg. Say 'thanks.' Remember that tomorrow will bring a new fight and another opportunity to work together.

Gerald Ford (93) U.S. President, strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, as House minority leader and president.

Recognizing that the proposed Equal Rights Amendment is the logical and rightful extension of the Nineteenth Amendment to rights other than voting, the President has, since 1972, annually set aside the 26th of August in recognition of the real and practical need to ensure that equal legal rights are enjoyed by women and men.... Several more States need to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment before it becomes part of our Constitution. It would be most fitting for this to be accomplished during our Nation's two-hundredth year. In this Land of the Free, it is right, and by nature it ought to be, that all men and all women are equal before the law.

Betty Frieden (85) author of "The Feminine Mystique." Co-founder and first president of the National Organization for Women in 1966, helped found the National Women's Political Caucus.

Every chapter [of "The Feminine Mystique"] I finished, I think, 'Am I crazy?' because it so went against what everybody believed about women. And yet I knew my truth, and I knew the truth of the women I was listening to.

(Continued on inside back cover)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JUDY KARANDJEFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 5, 2007

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
State of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

We are pleased to submit to you the 2006 Annual Report of the Michigan Women's Commission highlighting the commission's achievements in the calendar year of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

The Status of Women In Michigan Counties, conducted by the Michigan Women's Commission and James A. & Faith Knight Foundation, used five indicators to assess women's status: 1) political participation, 2) employment and earnings, 3) social and economic autonomy, 4) reproductive rights, and 5) health and well-being. During 2006, the Michigan Women's Commission addressed each of these five quality indicators through our programming, hearings, information and referral activities, and advocacy. We worked to accomplish our statutory goals, and, in so doing, we helped to improve the quality of life for Michigan women by:

1. Increasing the networking opportunities of women;
2. Improving the health and safety of Michigan women;
3. Increasing the public profile and identity of the Michigan Women's Commission as a resource for women;
4. Hearing from Michigan women about their concerns and priorities;
5. Researching the status of Michigan women; and
6. Working to accomplish your Women's Agenda.

The Commission's actions were guided by Public Act 1 of 1968.

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff, we express our appreciation for your commitment to improving the quality of life for Michigan women, especially with the issuance of your Women's Agenda. We would also like to recognize the support of many state agencies and the Legislature, the partnership of numerous community organizations, and the assistance of the media in furthering the mission of the Michigan Women's Commission. We look forward to continuing our work in 2007.

Sincerely,

Emma Bell
Chair

Gloria Woods
Vice Chair

Judy Karandjeff
Executive Director

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Mission

The Michigan Women's Commission
works to improve the quality of life for Michigan women.

Vision

Women creating leadership and partnership
for change on issues that matter.

Commission History

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. Eleanor Roosevelt served as chair of this historic commission. Similarly, in Michigan, Governors Swainson and Romney created and supported governors' commissions on the status of women in the early 1960's. In 1968, the Michigan Legislature enacted Public Act 1, statutorily creating the Michigan Women's Commission as an on-going body.

During its 38-year history, the Commission has worked on the following issues of concern to Michigan women:

- Child support
- Child care
- Domestic violence
- Economic independence
- Education
- Elder care and abuse
- Employment
- Equality
- GHB, club and rape drugs
- Health care
- Older women's issues
- Pay equity
- Personal protection orders
- Personal safety
- Pregnancy and prenatal care
- Pregnancy prevention and reproductive health
- Recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions
- Self esteem
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Substance abuse/treatment
- Women and technology

Commission Structure

The Michigan Women's Commission was established by Public Act 1 of 1968. It consists of 15 members broadly representative of numerous fields of interest to women. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints 15 members to the Commission for terms of three years. The Governor also designates a chair and a vice chair from members of the Commission. The directors of the following state departments, or their representatives, are ex officio members of the Commission: Civil Service, Labor and Economic Growth, Education, and Human Services. In addition to the 15 voting members, and four ex officio members, liaisons from other state departments and from the Governor's office are appointed by their respective department heads. The other participating state agencies include the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Civil Rights, Department of Community Health, Office of Services to the Aging, Department of Corrections, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Management and Budget, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan State Police, Department of Natural Resources, Department of State, and Department of Treasury. The Governor also appoints the Executive Director of the Michigan Women's Commission.

Powers And Duties

As prescribed in Public Act 1 of 1968, the Commission shall:

1. Stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and review of the status of women;
2. Strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers and workers;
3. Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and

private employment and civil and political rights;

4. Promote more effective methods of enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and to be retrained;
5. Make surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of, but not limited to, education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health, new and expanded services, legal rights, family relations and volunteer services; and
6. Secure appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to this state.

Funding

The Commission may accept federal funds granted by Congress or Executive Order for all or any of the purposes of this act as well as private gifts and donations from individuals, private organizations, or foundations, provided that the acceptance of federal funds commits no state funds and places no obligation upon the legislature to continue the purposes for which the funds are made available.

Cooperation Of Executive Departments And Agencies

The Commission shall have the full cooperation of all executive departments and agencies of the state in the performance of its duties.

Annual Reports And Recommendations

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Governor including recommendations based on its studies.

Rules And Recommendations

The Commission shall have no authority to promulgate rules and regulations.

Laws And Executive Order

In 1991, Governor John Engler issued Executive Order 1991-29. The Executive Order moved by a Type 1 transfer the Michigan Women's Commission from the Department of Management and Budget to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. In the Executive Order it states that (1) all the statutory authority, powers, duties, functions and responsibilities of the Michigan Women's Commission are transferred to the Director of the Department of Civil Rights and (2) the Director of the Department of Civil Rights shall administer the assigned functions so as to promote efficient administration.

The Michigan Women's Commission is a Type I agency. According to PA 380 of 1965:

Sec. 3.

(a) Under this act, a type I transfer means the transferring intact of an existing department, board, commission or agency to a principal

department established by this act. When any board, commission, or other agency is transferred to a principal department under a type I transfer; that board, commission or agency shall be administered under the supervision of that principal department. Any board, commission or other agency granted a type I transfer shall exercise its prescribed statutory powers, duties and functions of rule-making, licensing and registration including the prescription of rules, rates, regulations and standards, and adjudication independently of the head of the department. Under a type I transfer all budgeting, procurement and related management functions of any transferred board, agency or commission shall be performed under the direction and supervision of the head of the principal department.

There are also Attorney General Opinions, #4479 of 1966 and # 5329 of 1978, which further discuss this act.

Expenditures For Michigan Women's Commission

**October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005
compared to
October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006
(in dollars)**

Budgeted Items	2005 Actual Expenses	2006 Actual Expenses
Salaries/Fringes	190,494	191,902
Operating Expenses	* 36,007	** 25,925
Travel	8,762	5,020
Computer Services	1,836	1,872
Rent	42,559	31,940
Discretionary Budget	15,250	7,888
Subtotal	294,908	264,547
Funds from US DOL	0	*** 2,000
Total	294,908	266,547

* Includes 14,402 for mailing and 15,382 for printing

** Includes 14,630 for mailing and 4,679 for printing

*** Funds for "Young Women, Strong Leaders" Conference from US Dept. of Labor

Commissioners



Rana Abbas



Emma Bell



Renee Farbat



Gail Glezen



Pat Hardy



Maria Ladas Hoops



Sally Shaheen Joseph



Patricia Lowrie



Emily Malloy



Alexandra Matish



Sheryl Mitchell



Rosa Morales



Anne Norlander



Brenda Jones Quick



Denise Radtke



Judy Rosenberg



Cheryl Sugerman



Joyce Watts



Gloria Woods

Emma Bell, Chair - Detroit
 Gloria Woods, Vice Chair - Bay City
 Rana Abbas - Dearborn (starting July 2006)
 Renee Farhat - Birmingham (starting July 2006)
 Gail Glezen - Sault Ste. Marie
 Patricia Hardy - Bloomfield Hills
 (ending July 2006)
 Maria Ladas Hoopes - Muskegon
 (resigned December 2006)
 Sally Shaheen Joseph - Flint
 Patricia Lowrie - Okemos

Emily Malloy - Grand Rapids
 Alexandra Matish - Ann Arbor
 Sheryl Mitchell - West Bloomfield
 (starting July 2006)
 Rosa Morales - Saginaw (starting July 2006)
 Anne Norlander - Battle Creek (ending July 2006)
 Brenda Jones Quick - Traverse City
 Denise Radtke - Plymouth (ending July 2006)
 Judy Rosenberg - Birmingham
 Cheryl Sugerman - Ann Arbor
 Joyce Watts - Allegan (ending July 2006)

Ex Officio Members

Deanna Hopkins - Department of Civil Service
Norene Lind - Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Roberta Stanley - Department of Education
Jocelyn Vanda - Department of Human Services

Liaisons

Sophie Baker - Department of Civil Rights
Maxine Berman - Office of the Governor
Amy Butler - Department of Environmental Quality
Karla Campbell - MI Economic Development Corporation
Patty Cantu - Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Alethia Carr - Department of Community Health
Karen Carroll - Office of Services to the Aging
Donna Donovan - Department of Treasury
Beth Emmitt - Department of State
Jenifer Esch - Department of Attorney General
Sgt. Michele Hernandez - Michigan State Police
Bridget Medina - Department of Agriculture
Elise Lancaster - Department of Management & Budget
Patricia Stewart - Department of Natural Resources
Heidi Washington - Department of Corrections

Staff

Judy Karandjeff - Executive Director
Elizabeth Thompson - Program Specialist

Interns

The Michigan Women's Commission was fortunate to have three interns during 2006. We thank them for their hard work and the dedication they have provided.

Michelle Stephenson - Michigan State University
Britt Lindquist - Luther College
Rebecca Malotke-Meslin - Eastern Michigan University



(from left) Chair Bell, Commissioners Woods, Morales, Mitchell, Farhat and Joseph, Lansing, December 13, 2006

Commission Goals and Strategies

Since May 2003, the Michigan Women's Commission (MWC) has been gathering information on issues of concern to women in Michigan to establish and drive our women-led agenda to improve the quality of life for Michigan's women. We held a networking meeting and hearing attended by representatives from 100 organizations in September 2003 in Lansing, and we conducted a survey on women's issues through our statewide newsletter and through women's organizations. We held three public hearings in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Lansing in 2004, and we participated in the *Status of Women in Michigan* report issued in 2004 by the Institute of Women Policy Research and funded by the Nokomis Foundation. In 2005, we held another public hearing in Traverse City and completed the *Status of Women in Michigan Counties* with the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation. In 2006, we held public hearings in Saginaw and in Farmington Hills.

The Michigan Women's Commission met four times in 2006:

March 8, Lansing

June 14, Saginaw & Public Hearing

September 13, Oakland Community
College & Public Hearing

December 13, Lansing

In 2002, the Michigan Women's Commission implemented a strategic plan. The strategic plan identified a mission statement and operational structure which provided a framework for the accomplishment of the goals of the Commission. The four goals identified in the plan are as follows:

- 1) to increase economic independence of women,
- 2) to improve health and safety of women,

- 3) to prevent discrimination against women, and
- 4) to increase the public profile and identity of the Michigan Women's Commission as a resource for Michigan women.

Objectives and strategies for meeting the four goals are detailed in the three-year strategic plan. The Michigan Women's Commission, with its 15 members appointed by the Governor and ex officio members or liaisons from 18 state departments, has established seven task forces to carry out its goals and objectives. The task forces are: affirmative action, domestic violence, gender equity/education, pay equity/economic development, unintended pregnancy, senior women and substance abuse.

Goal I. Increase the Economic Independence of Women

1. *Affirmative Action Task Force:*

Background:

Affirmative action remedies past discrimination, fights present-day discrimination, and promotes diversity in our society. The U.S. Supreme Court agrees affirmative action is necessary, because "in order to cultivate a set of leaders with legitimacy in the eyes of the citizenry, it is necessary that the path to leadership be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of every race and ethnicity" (Supreme Court majority opinion in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 2003).

According to the *Status of Women in Michigan Counties*, disparities in annual incomes continue to persist. Oakland county has the highest median annual income for women, \$35,890, followed by Washtenaw at \$33,598. The lowest median annual income, \$19,999, is in Montmorency. In every county, women's median income is less than men's. In 11 counties, the median annual income for women was under \$21,000.

Strategy:

MWC voted to support the concept of affirmative action in 2003. The commission members are actively working to educate women about the importance of affirmative action programs. To that end, MWC participated in numerous speaking opportunities to discuss affirmative action programs and their impact on women in 2006. The MWC will continue to work with the Governor to seek new ways to ensure diversity in Michigan after the November, 2006 success of Proposal Two.

2. Pay Equity/Economic Development Task Force:

Background:

Pay equity has been the most highlighted issue for women in Michigan.

Michigan ranks 49th – tied with Alabama – in pay equity, the ratio of women's to men's earnings for full-time, year-round work. Nationally, women's median annual earnings in 2002 for full-time, year-round employed women were \$30,100, only 76.2 percent of what men earn. Women in Michigan make 66.7 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn - the second biggest gap in the country. The median annual earning for full-time, year round workers in Michigan was \$30,900 for women and \$46,400 for men.

The situation is different for women who work in state government employment in Michigan. Due to a commitment to, and application of, pay equity principles and affirmative action policies throughout state government, salary parity is high. In 2001, female state government employees earned an average of \$0.92 for every dollar earned by males. (Citizens Research Council of Michigan, *Employment Trends in State Government FY1966-FY2003*, February 2004)

Improvements can be achieved by these actions:

- Federal, state and local governments can strengthen their enforcement of equal opportunity law.
- Businesses can regularly evaluate their wage and promotion practices to ensure that men and women of all races and ethnicities are fairly compensated for their work.
- Employers can actively recruit women into predominantly male jobs which have higher pay scales.
- Federal, state and local governments could improve educational and job training opportunities for women.
- We can all encourage increased educational attainment for all women.

Strategy:

MWC voted to support the pay equity legislation introduced in the House and Senate. The legislation goes further than current laws requiring equal pay for equal work. The proposed legislation, however, addresses the issue of women and men performing work of equal skill, effort and responsibility and being paid equally. Michigan already has a law requiring equal pay for equal work.

MWC distributes a brochure on pay equity to help women learn more about the issue, and another publication on women's rights in the workplace.

In 2005, MWC worked with the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation to assist in the development of *The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool*. Research was conducted, using this tool, for all of Michigan's 83 counties. The complete report is available on our web site. It provides comparable information on every county and allows us to compare counties with state and national studies in the areas of demographics, political participation, employment and earnings, social and economic autonomy, reproductive rights, and health and well-being. In 2006, we continued to distribute that report and speak about its implications.

Other issues that have been highlighted at the public hearings include the need for affordable child care and raising the minimum wage. The Governor and Michigan Legislature enacted legislation to increase the minimum wage in 2006. This increase, from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.40 an hour, over the next two years, will have a significant impact on women and working families.

Goal II. Improve the Health and Safety of Women

1. Senior Women Task Force:

Background:

According to the National Council of Women's Organizations' Task Force on Women and Social Security 1999, many women are economically disadvantaged in their old age and are expected to continue to be. In 1999, 10.8 percent of women aged 50 and older were living in poverty, compared with 7.1 percent of men aged 50 and older in the United States. In Michigan, 9.8 percent of women and 6.4 percent of men aged 50 and older were living in poverty. Both rates were lower than national averages. In Michigan, women constitute 57.3 percent, or 914,235, of those aged 60 and older.

Strategy:

Judy Karandjeff serves on the Advisory Committee for the Office of Services to the Aging.

Through the hearings, MWC has become aware of the need for portable pensions, the effect of pay inequity on social security and pensions and the need for more programs using a continuum of care permitting senior women to live in their own homes.

2. Substance Abuse Task Force:

Background:

Women in Michigan engage in somewhat worse health habits than women

nationally, according to *The Status of Women in Michigan*. The percent of Michigan women who engage in binge drinking (five or more alcoholic beverages at one time during the past month) is much higher than the median for all states (9.9 and 7.0, respectively). In Michigan, 1,081,930 males and 528,585 females are in need of substance abuse treatment based on 2000 figures. The percent of Michigan adult women who smoke, 24.5 percent, is also higher than the median for all states, 21.3 percent.

Strategy

The MWC Task Force continued to distribute brochures on drug abuse. Our intern researched publications that are available for college-aged students on the issue of substance abuse, especially the phenomenon of binge drinking.

At the hearings, MWC heard about the need for more funding and access to substance abuse treatment programs targeted to women.

3. Unintended Pregnancy Task Force:

Background:

In 2000, 41.2 percent of pregnancies were unintended. Currently in Michigan, more than six of every ten babies born to families on Medicaid are unintended, compared to three in ten in families not on Medicaid. The cost of each birth (prenatal care, delivery, and first year child care) to Medicaid is approximately \$11,000, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. The greatest number of unintended births are to women ages twenty to twenty-nine, 30,279 births of 71,989 in 2000 (42 percent).

Strategy:

The MWC Task Force prepared a paper, available on our web site, on the impact of unintended pregnancy in Michigan.

At our hearings, MWC was urged to support reproductive rights including adequate funding for family planning, access to abortion, access to early prenatal care, contraceptive equity and comprehensive sexuality education,

Governor Jennifer Granholm prepared an agenda for reducing unintended pregnancies which was announced in July 2005. The Granholm Administration's *Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies* specifies initiatives which have been implemented this year, including increased access to family planning services for low income women, contraceptive equity for men and women, and a sexuality education program entitled, "Talk Early, Talk Often."

Enrollment for the state's new Plan First! Program began July 1, 2006. The program expands health services to an expected 200,000 more women at or below 185 percent of poverty who reside in Michigan and meet Medicaid eligibility. Under the state's new family planning waiver, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will provide family planning services to women - ages 19 to 44 - who otherwise would not have coverage for these services.

A coalition of organizations asked the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) to issue a declaratory ruling that an employer's exclusion of prescription contraception from an otherwise comprehensive employee insurance plan is an unlawful employment practice under Michigan law. The MCRC issued a declaratory ruling to this effect on August 21, 2006.

The "Talk Early, Talk Often" program is designed to offer parents of middle school children a resource for talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues. The programs, held throughout the state in 2005, continued in 2006, with the announcement to expand access to information to medical professionals.

Michigan's health care community is engaged in a statewide effort to reduce Michigan's unintended pregnancy rate by encouraging providers to discuss a women's/partner's intentions to become pregnant at every visit and to advise men and women of childbearing age of family planning providers and options.

4. Domestic Violence Task Force:

Background:

Only in the late 1970s was domestic violence acknowledged as a public policy concern, and MWC took an important lead on this issue. Michigan funds 45 domestic violence shelters for 83 counties. The shelters are operated under local auspices with some state funding subsidy. In fiscal year 2002, 103,377 nights of shelter in the 45 Michigan domestic violence shelters were provided to adults as well as 129,264 nights of shelter for children. In fiscal year 2002, there were 5,000 denials at shelters due to full capacity. Domestic violence shelters provide both residential and non-residential services. In FY 2002, the number of unduplicated residential women served was 6,001. The number of unduplicated residential children served was 6,909. The number of unduplicated non-residential women served was 15,708. The number of unduplicated non-residential children served was 4,132. The average age of women coming to a shelter was 32 years old with an average of 2 children. According to the Michigan Uniform Crime Report, in 2002, 53,633 domestic violence offenses were reported.

In Michigan, 40 percent of women have experienced some form of sexual violence ranging from unwanted touching to forcible rape, since the age of 16. According to the Michigan Uniform Crime Report, in 2002, 5,438 rape offenses were committed in Michigan. In 30 percent of the cases, the offender was an acquaintance/friend or neighbor.

Strategy:

At our hearings, MWC heard from numerous organizations and individuals regarding the need for more work on domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Working with other stakeholders, we prepared new brochures on aspects of domestic violence that are available on our web site. The materials provide a comprehensive resource on the issue.

MWC opposed legislation that would require mandatory joint custody in divorce proceedings because of safety issues for victims of domestic violence.

The Michigan Women's Commission co-sponsored the Michigan Sexual Assault Summit, held in Lansing, with the Michigan Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Board. The MWC frequently works with the Board on issues of joint interest.

Goal III. Prevent Discrimination Against Women

Gender Equity/Education Task Force:

Background:

In Michigan, 83.3 percent of women age 18 and older completed high school in 2000. This is a significant increase from 1980 when 70 percent completed high school and in 1970 when 54 percent completed high school.

In 2000, 6.3 percent of Michigan women age 18 or older had obtained graduate or professional degrees, 12.4 percent had bachelor's degrees, 7.2 percent had associate's degrees, 25.5 percent had some postsecondary education, 31.6 percent had graduated from high school or its equivalent. 16.6 percent of Michigan women, however, had not obtained a high school degree or its equivalent.

Strategy:

The MWC task force has worked with Roberta Stanley, Michigan Department of Education, and Patti Cantu, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, to provide additional statewide trainings for school personnel on Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments.

MWC heard numerous requests for changes in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in order to allow women more opportunities for education to meet their work requirements. In March, 2006, the Michigan Department of Human Services began a pilot program, Jobs, Education and Training (JET) which would permit some of the state's cash assistance recipients to count more education time towards work requirements.

The Michigan Women's Commission hosted a meeting with women leaders and the Governor to highlight the Governor's Women's Agenda and commemorate Women's Equality Day. MWC staff also participated in numerous press conferences and events to highlight the day.

The Michigan Women's Commission supported the Michigan Civil Rights Commission's ruling that excluding prescription contraceptives from a prescription plan with comprehensive health care coverage violates the gender discrimination provisions of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. The MWC also supported legislation to provide contraceptive equity.

Goal IV. Increase the Public Profile and Identity of the Michigan Women's Commission as a Resource for Women

Strategy:

The MWC staff has been working to become a resource hub for women's organizations throughout the state. We compiled a 2006 calendar of women's events on our web site. We maintain a web-based resource directory, providing information links in the key areas of employment, health, advocacy, families, money, education and voting.

In 2005 and 2006, the Business & Professional Women of Michigan, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Godchaux Safford Group, Grand Valley State University, League of Women Voters of Michigan, Michigan Council of YWCAs, Michigan Women's Campaign Fund, Michigan Women's

Commission, National Organization for Women - Michigan Chapter, National Women's Political Caucus of Michigan, Oakland Community College, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan, Women Officials' Network, with a coalition of other organizations initiated *Run, Girl, Run* workshops.

These non partisan workshops are designed to inspire and support women to prepare for public office in an informal and supportive setting. The workshops provide women the tools needed to get ready to run a campaign and serve in public office.

We held one workshop in Lansing on September 23 and 24, and another in Grand Rapids on October 21 and 22. Approximately 70 people participated. In 2006, a third workshop was held on January 20 and 21, in Farmington Hills. Over 50 people attended the nonpartisan workshop.

The Michigan Women's Commission hosted the "Young Women, Strong Leaders" Conference with the Michigan State University Women's Resource Center, on March 30 and 31, 2006. Over 150 students and mentors attended the two day conference to hear from the Governor and other women in leadership positions in a variety of occupations. Young women were selected by state universities, colleges and community colleges to attend the event. Through mentor relationships and leadership training, participants were equipped with tools to become leaders at their institutions and their communities throughout Michigan.

MWC held two more public hearings in 2006. In all, six public hearings for women to voice their concerns have been held throughout the state. In June, there was a public hearing in Saginaw. In September, there was a public hearing in Farmington Hills. A brief listing of the testimony presented at these two hearings follows.

MWC updated a database of 800 women's organizations around the state, now available on our website.

MWC publishes a quarterly newsletter that goes to over 13,000 people to highlight women's issues and programs.

Commissioners and others attended the Michigan Women's Studies Association 23rd Annual Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

MWC participated in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth's award ceremony for students in secondary and community college programs that are in non-traditional programs.

The Commissioners and staff gave speeches to numerous community organizations and professional groups, on a variety of subjects.

MWC responded to hundreds of requests for information and pamphlets throughout the year. MWC worked with other stakeholders to create new publications on domestic violence. Information about MWC publications is available at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

MWC staffed displays with MWC materials at conferences.

MWC staff presented workshops at the Michigan Women's Studies Association annual conference.

During Women's History Month, MWC hosted a reception prior to its meeting.

Judy Karandjeff was active in the National Association of Commissions for Women, and



Jean Doss and conference participants at the "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference, East Lansing, March 31, 2006

serves on the board of directors as a regional representative.

Several commissioners had letters published in various newspapers on different subjects of particular concern to Michigan women.

Staff participated in a week-long workshop, hosted by the Michigan Hall of Fame Museum and Central Michigan University, to develop curriculum materials on women's history, for use in the Michigan public school system. Staff is developing a web-based guide to the history of women's suffrage in Michigan, to be posted on our web site in 2007.



*Run, Girl, Run Workshop
Farmington Hills, January 21, 2006*

SUMMARY OF HEARING - SAGINAW - 6/14/2006

Testimony Presented:

1. Jennifer Farrington – Planned Parenthood of East Central Michigan - written testimony

Served 9,279 clients last year. Concerned about the lack of affordable access to contraceptives. With 85% of women using contraceptives at some point in their lives, the passage of SB 431 and 432 - contraceptive equity legislation- is needed.

2. Jill Wilson– written testimony

As a mother of three and a woman she is grateful for the Medicaid program. She is glad Governor is working to provide health coverage of low income parents and wants the plan to be realistic about co-payments and premiums.

3. Jackie Doig – Center for Civil Justice – written testimony

Supports Governor's proposed Michigan First Healthcare program and wants it done right. We need realistic premiums, co-payments, deductibles or co-insurance. Need to provide preventative care and access to providers. Also need to be mindful of the effects that MI First Healthcare may have on access to care for individuals who currently receive Medicaid.

4. Marsha Parrott-Boyle – SEIU Local 517M- written testimony

Highlighted the need to address workplace ergonomics. A large number of women are injured each year due to ergonomic risk factors that are ignored. Nursing aides have 10 times more injuries than auto mechanics. All people have the right to go to work and not be harmed by preventable hazards.

5. Melissa Byrnes – SEIU Local 517M - written testimony

Concerned about being able to pump milk as a breastfeeding mom while at work. She worked at the Department of Environmental Quality and found many problems finding a suitable place to express milk. Workplace needs to support breastfeeding.

6. Rachel Estabrook – Underground Railroad, Inc. no written testimony

Thanked the commission for working on anti-domestic violence legislation, contraceptive equity and for affirmative action. Hopes to continue to work together in the future.

7. Leola Wilson - NAACP – written testimony

Spoke about the need to work together to defeat the MCRI ballot proposal. The proposal would harm Michigan's women.

8. Sandra Lindsey - Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority - written testimony

As the director she spoke about the need to support Senator Bev Hammerstrom's legislation for mental health parity. She also spoke about the problems people leaving jails have in obtaining state identification cards.

9. Linda Tilot – written testimony

Concerned about urban decay. She believes there needs to be an outside force to make regional metropolitan planning happen. She thinks the current planning laws are outdated and responsible for urban decay.

10. Connie Downing – Covenant HealthCare- written testimony

In search of support for fair and ethical reimbursement to organizations who continue to care for high-risk pregnancies. They request DRG reform and review of reimbursement practices.

11. Susan Garpiel – Covenant HealthCare – written testimony

Provided detailed information on reimbursement rates and DRG groupings for

high-risk pregnancies at the centers in Michigan providing such care.

12. Daneil J. Wechter, M.D. –Maternal-Fetal Medicine, P.C. - written testimony

Hospitals need to get adequate reimbursement for high risk pregnancies so care is available.

13. Lisa Hadden – Health Futures, Healthy Community Partners - written testimony

Told about the Healthy Community Partners that has integrated an asset-based community development model into a health care delivery system to reach the homeless and uninsured population, many of whom are single women with children. The Healthy Futures program is a network of 5 street clinics located in places where the homeless and uninsured are found. Served over 6,000 patients in last 4 years.

14. Pam Yager – Governor's Policy Staff – written testimony

Provided information on the Governor's proposed Michigan First Health Care Plan to cover the uninsured in Michigan.

Attending but not testifying:

- 15. Christine Brennan – Child and Family Service
- 16. Dr. Mamie Thorns – SVSU, Director of Diversity Programs
- 17. Marianne Woods – SEIU 517M
- 18. Gwen Howard – SVSU Sociology Club
- 19. Janelle Evans – Women's Center of Greater Lansing
- 20. Teresa Borowski – AAUW Saginaw Chapter
- 21. Nancy Urban – Saginaw County CMH Authority
- 22. Betty Gillmore
- 23. Sarah Holdwick

6/15/2006

SUMMARY OF HEARING - OAKLAND COUNTY- 9/13/2006

Testimony Presented:

**1. President Jacqueline Shadko, Ph.D.
– Orchard Ridge Campus, OCC – no written testimony**

Welcomed us to the campus.

2. Barbara Bonsignore – American Association of University of Women of Michigan - written testimony

AAUW supports pay equity legislation and highlighted the need for action.

3.. Dr. Sheila Semler – MDCH – Oral Health – no written testimony

Highlighted the status of oral health in Michigan. For more information go to www.michigan.gov/mdch.

4. Beth Morrison - Haven – written testimony

Urges the commission to oppose the coercive abortion, presumption of joint custody and "child protection" legislation.

5. Polly Howe – Pay Equity Network- written testimony

Highlighted the need to support pay equity in Michigan.

6. Malinda Baker – Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies - written testimony

Expressed concern about the TANF program and requirements for pregnant women.

7. Betty DuRocher – Insurance Women of Metro Detroit - written testimony

Expressed the frustration she has faced in getting the organization's name changed.

8. Wendy Wagenheim – President, Jewish Community Council – written testimony

Spoke about the work of the Jewish Community Council and ways to work together.

9. Marcia Gershenson – Oakland County Commissioner- no written testimony

Spoke about the importance of strengthening exercises for young women. She will share more information with us about the Girls Can Jump program.

10. Millie Hall – President, Metro-Detroit Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women – written testimony

Spoke to the mission of CLUW which includes promoting affirmative action in the workplace, organizing the unorganized; increasing the involvement of women in the political and legislative process; and strengthening the role of women leadership and policy-making roles in their union.

Attending but not testifying:

11. Toni Wilson
12. Carmen Wargel - Turning Point
13. Aurelia Tranchida - AAUW Birmingham Branch
14. Kathy Hagenian - Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
15. President Jackie Shadko - President Orchard Ridge Campus, OCC
16. Judge Susan Moiseev - 46th District Court
17. Arlene Frank - Women's Resource Center, OCC
18. Debi Cain - MI Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment Board

9/15/06

Partnerships and Collaborations

The Michigan Women's Commission views itself as a partnership agency and, as such, relies greatly on the assistance and support of other partners. The following project partnerships deserve our appreciation:

- Office of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm • Office of Lieutenant Governor John Cherry
- Members of the Michigan Legislature • Members of the U.S. Senate • Members of the U.S. Congress • Office of the Attorney General • Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Michigan Department of Civil Service • Michigan Department of Corrections
- Michigan Department of Community Health • Office of Services to the Aging • Michigan Department of Education • Michigan Department of Information and Technology
- Michigan Department of Human Services • Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth • Michigan Department of Management & Budget • Michigan Department of Natural Resources • Michigan Department of State • Michigan State Police
- Michigan Department of Transportation • Michigan Department of Treasury • Michigan Economic Development Corporation • Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment Board
- James A & Faith Knight Foundation and other organizations, individuals, and agencies too numerous to list.

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We Honor Feminists Who We Lost in 2006

Coretta Scott King (78) widow of the civil rights leader, founded the King Center to carry on his work, fought discrimination throughout the world.

If American women would increase their voting turnout by ten percent, I think we would see an end to all of the budget cuts in programs benefiting women and children.

Jeane Kirkpatrick (80) the first female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations

I do believe that there still may be some special sort of resentment of women in high politics in this country. I think that some of the attacks on me have been motivated not only by politics, but also by that special resentment of women.

Maryann Mahaffey (81) Detroit City Council member and president, 1973 to 2005. Social work professor at Wayne State University, advocate for racial equality and women's rights.

If you stand for something, then do it. And if there is a penalty, then pay it. Otherwise, how will people know you're really serious?

Vashti Cromwell McCollum (95) In 1945, sued the Champaign Illinois school board, arguing that religion classes should not be part of the public schools. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirmed the separation of church and state in public schools.

I fought not only for what I earnestly believed to be right, but for the truest kind of religious freedom intended by the First Amendment, the complete separation of church and state.

Ann Richards (73) Governor of Texas 1991-1995 and Texas state treasurer.

They blame the low income women for ruining the country because they are staying home with their children and not going out to work. They blame the middle income women for ruining the country because they go out to work and do not stay home to take care of their children.

Louise Smith (90) NASCAR racer, she became the first woman inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1999..

I won a lot, crashed a lot, and broke just about every bone in my body, but I gave it everything I had.

Wendy Wasserstein (55) author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning play "The Heidi Chronicles", whose plays portray women in a way they hadn't been onstage before: witty, intelligent and serious.

I remember going to them [Broadway plays] and thinking, "I really like this but where are the girls?"

Total Number of Copies: 350
Total Cost: \$676.87
Cost per Copy: \$1.93
Published: April 2007

